

read, but his Christmas gospel is practised universally in this great metropolis.

The Queen passed her Christmas at Osborne, where she had a large family party. Her leisure is now occupied with the revision of the new biography which her librarian, Mr. Richard R. Holmes, is writing. Many chapters she has personally dictated, and she takes a great interest in the compilation of the work.

Her most distinguished subject awaits his eighty-seventh birthday at Hawarden. It will be celebrated on Tuesday with the usual honors and congratulatory dispatches. Probably no other public man in any country receives so many birthday letters and dispatches as Mr. Gladstone. His delightful letter on book collecting, written to Mr. Quaritch, is an earnest part of the autobiography which he might write if he had the strength required for imitating the Queen's example.

Lord Salisbury is entertaining a large Christmas party at Hatfield, and Lord Rosebery a small one at Mentmore. Mr. Chamberlain is at Highbury, where he will soon receive the Sugar Commission which is to visit the West Indies in search of information about the decline of the cane industry through the neglect of the mother country to protect it against ruinous competition from the European beet product.

An English Christmas would not be complete without its gay parties in all the great country houses, its bountiful metropolitan charities, its splendid rendering of "The Messiah" in Albert Hall, and the promiscuous delights of Boxing Day. It must have its traditional observances, like the singing of Latin carols and the serving of the boar's head decked with rosemary in Queen's College, Oxford. It must have its ghost recitals like that which comes from Ruthland, of a haunted house with mysterious knockings on a newly varnished door, which doctors, ministers, schoolmasters and police officers have investigated in vain. It must also have its stories of paths of neglected childhood like that related in the Southwark Police Court, in which a mother, driven from home by her husband's illness, lost sight of her only boy for two years and then recognized him in a ragged, hungry-lookingurchin to whom she chanced to give a penny at a street crossing.

Mr. Chapman has sold two estates, Blankney and Tathwell, in Lincolnshire, to the Earl of Londesborough. It is understood that Blankney Hall will become the residence of Viscount Rainecliffe. The prices paid are not known, but these two estates, which were worth \$450,000 in 1870, were recently valued at \$172,000 by an expert. Mr. Chapman has suffered like other large landholders from shrinkages caused by the agricultural depression in free-trade England. He appears to have sound reasons for being an uncompromising protectionist. The houses in Piccadilly formerly occupied by Sir Julian Goldsmith and Baron Hirsch are now advertised for sale after being vacant for a long period. These are palatial mansions in the best quarters of London's most famous street. Probably they are destined to be the homes of South African millionaires, since Mr. Hooley's real estate speculations are confined to country estates.

The holiday auction sales at Christie's and elsewhere have been largely attended, and pictures, engravings and bric-a-brac have brought unusually high prices. A most singular commentary on human nature supplied by these sales was the brisk competition for autograph letters written by Lady Emma Hamilton, which commanded better prices than Lord Nelson's letters to his wife, or than historical documents bearing the signatures of the famous sea-rovers, Drake and Hawkins.

The controversy over the restoration of the famous west front of Peterborough Cathedral by methods more or less destructive continues with unabated ardor, the dean and chapter obstinately persisting in denying that the outer walls can be dealt with from the interior and left untouched externally.

Mr. Sargent's portrait of Prussia, which has been presented to the National Portrait Gallery.

Sir Henry Irving's injury from a sprained knee is proving more serious than was at first reported. He is still in bed, and the doctors are unwilling to say when he can return to the Lyceum stage. As his work in Richard III is very heavy, he would incur dangerous risks by returning prematurely. Mr. Bram Stoker, with his usual energy, has made the best arrangement possible in continuing "Cymbeline" with another Iachimo and a new Imogen, deferring indefinitely the second performance of Richard III.

The theatres have been changing programmes this week all around. The best performance has been at the Adelphi, where "Black-Eyed Susan" has been revived with fine realism, excellent stage effects and a strong cast. When the Kendals produced this old-time play the public would not support the performance; that was because the play was modernized and rewritten. It is highly successful now, because it is presented in its original form and spirit. Mr. Terriss, who was once a midshipman himself, makes a strong and breezy William, dancing a sailor's hornpipe, singing nautical songs and bringing out the humor and pathos of the part. Miss Millward's Susan is excellent. The so-called mystery play at Olympia, founded on "The Pilgrim's Progress" and produced at enormous expense, excited jeers and hisses from the galleries and is a failure. The spectacular effects are ingenious, but the characters are faint shadows, which make no impression on the audience—not even Christian, who has a lively broad-sword combat with Apollyon before entering the Celestial City.

If Bunyan were alive to-day, he would have had cause for righteous wrath over the liberties taken with his immortal allegory, and Grimaldi and all the old-time clowns would have deplored the lack of humor in the Christmas pantomimes witnessed to-day at the Drury Lane and many suburban theatres. The harlequinade is no longer led by the good clown, and the comic business which was the life of the old-time pantomime has disappeared; the whole thing has degenerated into a variety show, with marvelous spectacular effects, but with the old-fashioned fun and buffoonery left out. Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, the Forty Thieves, and a dozen other juvenile classics have been rehearsed for Boxing Day audiences, and splendid triumphs of stage mechanism they are. But the concert halls rival them every night of the week in tinsel glory, graceful dancing, and miscellaneous attractions.

The best show is "Aladdin," at the Drury Lane, which was witnessed by a great multitude to-night. It was a glorious ravel of color and movement in a series of entrancing stage pictures of wonderland. Seldom has a pantomime been staged with equal magnificence. The audience was spellbound with delight over the brilliant transformation scenes and the fascinating dances; but what was lacking was the genuine oldtime Christmas jollity. It was, however,

## Rheu-

matism affects the joints and muscles and causes constant suffering. Cure it by neutralizing the lactic acid and purifying the blood by taking

## Hood's Sarsaparilla

The best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills, cure headache, 25¢.

The Queen has received her usual Christmas present of a boar's head from the Emperor, the German Emperor. The present was two massive hampers of German cakes and confections. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (the Duke of Edinburgh) has sent to his mother a number of cases of wine and sweetmeats. The Queen, though now practically abstain from intoxicating drinks, takes a glass of rare Tokay on special occasions such as Christmas. Princess Beatrice (Princess Henry of Battenberg)

## RANDEL, BAREMORE & BILLINGS, IMPORTERS OF DIAMONDS AND OTHER PRECIOUS STONES. MANUFACTURERS OF DIAMOND JEWELRY.

55 Nassau St., 29 Malden Lane, New York.  
1 St. Andrews St., Hobson's Circus, London, E. C.

brilliant in musical comedy, with rollicking songs, beautiful dances and unsaluted concert hall jokes and a few passages of harlequinade at the close, when the audience had grown weary of the sport. The public censor had protected the Sultan from untimely quips and cranks, but the Emperor of China, the "Grand Old Man" and the German Emperor were fair game. The chief merits of the performance, which will fill the Drury Lane for many weeks, are the scenic beauty, the superb costuming and the remarkably good ballet. L. N. F.

## HARD TIMES IN BERLIN.

THE WORST CHRISTMAS SEASON KNOWN  
FOR MANY YEARS.

TRADESPeOPLE AND WORKMEN ALIKE SUFFERING FROM THE FINANCIAL STRINGENCY—THE IMPERIAL FAMILY'S CELEBRATION—AN ENORMOUS MILITARY CREDIT WANTED

—PROPOSED EXCOMMUNICATIO

OF COUNT LYOT TOLSTO

Berlin, Dec. 26.—The Christmas holidays this year have been much duller than for many years past. The tradesmen have been greatly disengaged at the lack of holiday business in comparison with other years, and the workmen have been discontented at the slackness of work and the consequent scarcity of money with which to provide the bare necessities of life, to say nothing of the purchase of Christmas goods. Added to this state of affairs, the damp, raw weather which has prevailed for the last few days and still continues has had a dispiriting effect on everybody, the absence of the old-time sharp frosts at Christmastide having deprived the period of its usual glow of festivity. Last Christmas the tradesmen complained of bad business, but they all agree in declaring that this year it is far worse. It is not the lack of attractive inducements that prevents shoppers from buying. There was never a better display in the shop windows, nor was there ever so tasteful an arrangement of holiday goods under the brilliance of electric lights or a more elaborate drapery of the stores. Nevertheless, the jewellers and goldsmiths, who were engaged in raising a large sum of money for Christmas sales are complaining bitterly of their inability to do a satisfactory or even a moderate degree of business, and it is only the cheaper toy shops and the dealers in fancy articles that are doing any business at all.

Although less money has been spent in the purchase of Christmas presents, however, a greater number of tradesmen than usual have been bestowing on the less wealthy families the gifts of clothing which are already existing. Two night refuge houses were opened on Christmas Eve, where food and clothing was distributed yesterday to hundreds of distressed persons. Numerous collections for charitable purposes have again been increased, and house-to-house collections in aid of poor children have been made. In consequence of this increase in charitable works, there are general contributions of old clothes, toys, and various comforts, coats, caps, mittens, kitchens, donations to hospitals, etc., to a degree beyond precedent. The donations exceed all previous years in abundance, and the charities to which they were devoted were much wider in scope.

The Emperor's two eldest sons, Crown Prince William and Prince Eitel Frederick, arrived at the new palace at Potsdam on Tuesday from Plessow College, where they are pursuing their studies, for the purpose of enjoying the holidays with their parents. On Christmas Eve the imperial family and the servants of their household assembled in the ante-room of the apartments of the Empress, where the Empress and her children presented gifts to the servants of the household. The Emperor and Empress, with the whole Court and the Prince and Princess of Schaumburg-Lippe, then dined in the marble hall of the palace. On December 25, the Emperor and Empress, with the members of the imperial family, were released from Holloway Jail this morning, their sentences of five months each having expired. Major R. White and Major Sir John Willoughby are still in prison. Major White, who was sentenced to seven months' imprisonment, has still two months to serve, and Major Willoughby, who was sentenced to ten months' confinement, will have to serve five months longer, unless the Home Secretary intervenes to shorten their terms.

Dr. Jameson, the leader of the raid, who was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment, was released from Holloway Jail on December 2 on account of ill-health, and is now being treated in a private institution.

Captain Coventry received a sentence of five months' imprisonment, but was released from Holloway Jail in the latter part of August, the prison doctors certifying that he was suffering from the effects of a wound received in a fight between the raiders and the Boers at Krugersdorp.

THE SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY TAKE UP A LARGE PART OF THE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

London, Dec. 26.—Reference was made in these dispatches last week to the fact that John Dillon would move an amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech at the opening of the coming session of Parliament regarding the question of the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland. It was then said on high official authority that nothing would be attempted by the Government to rectify that most substantial of Irish grievances until the Irish Local Government bill was introduced. Official opinion still remains the same. But official opinion is not always final, and although the Cabinet collective have completed their legislative programme for the session, excluding any important Irish measure, there are abundant indications that despite the Government's arrangements Ireland will again take up the larger portion of Parliament's attention. The coalition of Unionist landlords, anti-Parnellites and Parnellites against the Government's delay in dealing with the report of the Financial Commission has surprised the Government, forewarned as it was of the landlords' discontent over the Land act and their desire for lessened taxation from some source. The landlords now see in the finding of the Financial Commission a firm basis for an immediate revision of taxation, and are going to try to obtain it.

There is a keen contest among all sections to bring the question before Parliament. Besides Mr. Dillon, John Redmond will move an amendment to the address asking early redress of the disproportion contributed by Ireland to the Imperial Exchequer. A similar amendment will be moved in the House of Lords from the Unionist side. Considerable interest is manifested in Parliamentary circles as to how the Government will meet this demand, backed, as it will be, by Nationalists and Unionists combined.

A representative of the United Associated Presses learns from a Ministerial source that A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury and Government leader in the House of Commons, and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, relay on prying the correctness of the report of Sir David Barbour, which questioned the conclusions of the Commission, will be called upon to submit a report to the Government, and will be asked to submit the evidence of financial experts like Sir Robert Hamilton and Sir Robert Giffen.

English Tory organ says that there was no just cause for the raid, and that therefore the report of the majority was biased. There were, however, three noted Unionists on the Commission. The O'Connor Don, G. Wolff, Mr. P. and Mr. P. P. and Mr. T. and others, and the anti-slavery report, Lord Ferrier, Lord Welby and Mr. Currie, who practically confirmed the Commission's findings, are only Home Rulers under limitations. Further, if the Commission's report is accepted, even the evidence of Sir Robert Hamilton and Sir Robert Giffen, it must go to find them. Sir Robert Hamilton is dead. Sir Robert Giffen is an economist first and a politician second, and a doctor of medicine, and his position is that almost impossible to shake. The House may for the reasons here indicated decline to appoint a select committee, and support the Nationalists in demanding early legislative action.

COLONELS WHITE AND GREY RELEASED.

THEIR SENTENCES FOR TAKING PART IN THE TRANSVAAL RAID EXPIRE.

London, Dec. 26.—Colonel H. F. White and Colonel R. Gray, who together with Dr. L. S. Jameson, Major Sir John Willoughby, Major R. White and Captain Henry T. Coventry, son of the Earl of Coventry, were convicted of participation in the raid led by Dr. Jameson into the Transvaal, on December 21, 1881, were released from Holloway Jail this morning, their sentences of five months each having expired. Major R. White and Major Sir John Willoughby are still in prison. Major White, who was sentenced to seven months' imprisonment, has still two months to serve, and Major Willoughby, who was sentenced to ten months' confinement, will have to serve five months longer, unless the Home Secretary intervenes to shorten their terms.

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GUESTS AT LEADING HOTELS.

ALBEMARLE.

J. L. Haverty, Boston.  
Mrs. B. J. Keable, Haverhill,  
Mass.  
A. Peabody, Haverhill, Mass.  
D. A. Geary, Boston.

BROADWAY CENTRAL.

J. Robert Balfour, Buffalo,  
N. Y.  
H. H. Hutchins, Boston,  
Mass.  
R. H. Peck, Providence.

BRYANT.

R. C. Henderson & wife,  
Elizabeth.  
M. R. Henderson, New  
York.  
W. H. Carter & wife, Wa  
terford.  
S. H. Weston, New York.

BUCKINGHAM.

Mrs. Van Nostrand, New  
York.  
Miss Van Nostrand, New  
York.  
Mrs. G. Van Nostrand, New  
York.  
R. D. Hubbard, Bos  
ton.

GILSEY.

W. S. Dakin, New London.  
W. H. Richards, Erie,  
Penn.  
H. L. Ballou, Elmira,  
N. Y.  
W. H. Ballou & wife, Chi  
cago.  
E. G. Williams, Berlin,  
Conn.  
N. H. Williams, Philadelphia.

PARK AVENUE.

C. J. Garber, Englewood,  
N. J.  
J. B. Bassett, Bridgeport,  
Conn.  
A. Richards & wife, Phil  
adelphia.

MARLBOROUGH.

G. A. Stafford, St. Louis.  
G. W. Wiles & wife, Fishkill,  
N. Y.  
C. McBrady & wife,  
C. C. Green, Paris.

MARYLEBONE.

J. L. Hetherington, Phil  
adelphia.  
A. G. Bishop, Boston.  
D. A. Ascoli, Paris.

REINHOLD.

F. C. Collinson, Troy,  
N. Y.  
H. B. Hart, Birmingham,  
Mass.  
W. R. Lyon, Birmingham.

VENDOME.

A. Haverty, Boston.  
S. Walker & wife, New  
York.

WINDSOR.

J. P. Buckenberger & wife,  
St. Louis.  
Miss J. Buckenberger, St.  
Louis.

GRAND.

D. Ferry & wife, U. S. M.  
S. M. Evelyn, Troy,  
N. Y.  
F. C. Collinson, Troy,  
N. Y.  
H. B. Hart, Birmingham,  
Mass.  
W. R. Lyon, Birmingham.

LOCAL BUSINESS COMPLICATIONS.

A. SINTH-AVE. DRYGOODS FIRM EMARRAGED—  
BALL-NOZZLE STOCK SEIZED BY  
THE SHERIFF.

George Heather, doing business as Heather & Co., dealer in drygoods, at Nos. 22 to 28 Sixth-ave., has been financially embarrassed, and yesterday Kneeland & Stewart filed their judgments against him, aggregating \$2,882. They were in favor of the H. B. Claffin Company for \$2,888, on a note given for merchandise; of Elizabeth E. Heather, \$1,488, also for money lent. He has been doing business since 1882, at No. 26 West End-streets, where his previous address was. Last March, Mr. Balfour moved from Fourteenth- to Sixteenth-st., leasing the entire building at \$15,000 rental for the first year. The move did not prove a profitable one. General Stillman F. Kneeland, who was appointed Judge-Administrator, has the staff of office, and Kneeland & Stewart has the man in charge for the H. B. Claffin Company, said that Mr. Heather had expected a big holiday trade, but the trade was the worst he ever had, and that the nominal assets would exceed \$20,000, and said that the nominal assets were fully as much, there being a large stock on hand.

Judgment for \$2,829 was entered yesterday against Henry H. Pearson and Julio Hatchwell, who composed the firm of Pearson & Julio, in favor of Edward Mahoney, for rent of the Ocean House at Long Branch in the summer of 1892.

George B. McClellan has been appointed receiver in supplementary proceedings for property in this country of Gabriel Lafon and Henry Paseo, of Marseilles, France. The appointment was made on the application of William L. G. and Isaac P. Blithewell. There is an account due to them of \$42, for which the receivership was asked.

Deputy-Sheriff Williams has seized 1,000 dozen ball-nozzle lawn sprinklers at the office of the American Ball Nozzle Company, at Broadway and Thirteenth-st., under a writ of replevin, in favor of E. C. Stearns & Co., of Syracuse, for a claim of \$6,000.

The Sheriff has received another attachment against the Bank of Minnesota, of St. Paul, for \$6,000, in favor of Mary H. Semple.

COMING ON THE ALLER.

Among the passengers on the steamer Aller, which sailed from Bremen on December 22 and Southampton on December 23, is Leanne H. on Friday, a German Empress, the Empress of Germany, who is to spend the winter in the family circle.

The Princess of Wales was at Marlborough House, her London residence, until Monday last. She was actively engaged in shopping in company with the Princess Royal, and Princess Charles of Denmark. Most of the presents were Christmas presents, of which they bought a large quantity.

The Queen has received her usual Christmas present of a boar's head from the Emperor, the German Emperor. The present was two lbs. and one-half oz. hamper of German cakes and confections.

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Princess Beatrice (Princess Henry of Battenberg)